REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed January 10, 2002. The drawings were objected to, various claims were objected to due to informalities, and various of the claims were rejected under §112, and all other claims were rejected under §102 or §103.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to because Figure 1 did not include a label "Memory 27" as described in column 10, lines 38 and 39 of the specification. Applicant has amended the specification to correct the reference to the memory to be "22" instead of "27". Thus, Applicant submits that this objection has been overcome.

Claim Objections

Claims 30, 44 and 45 were objected to because of improper dependencies. Applicant has amended these claims to correct these informalities.

Claims 14, 24, 25 and 45 were objected to under §37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant has cancelled claims 14, 24 and 25. Applicant has also cancelled claim 37 for similar reasons. Applicant has also amended claim 45 as discussed above to correct the claim dependency. Thus, Applicant submits that this rejection has been overcome.

§112 Rejections

Claims 10, 41, 44 and 45 were rejected under §112 as being definite. Claim 10 was rejected because there was no connection between the element described in claim 10 and the element provided in claim 8. Applicant has cancelled claim 10 to overcome this rejection. Claims 41, 44 and 45 were rejected because the preamble of these claims was inconsistent with the preamble of the independent claim to which these claims depended. Applicant has amended these claims to correct this error.

§102 and 103 Rejections

The claims were rejected under §102 and §103 in view of Lawlor et al. Applicant notes that the Lawlor et al. patent is directed to a system for remote delivery of retail banking services over the public switched telephone network. The Lawlor patent describes a system where a user uses a "telephone-based linking terminal", which is ATM-like in appearance, to perform home banking. The telephone based banking terminal is at a fixed location and is not believed to be portable or mobile. Using the terminal, the user communicates through the "telephone company public data network . . . to a central computer system" to perform home banking services (See column 6, lines 59-65). The Lawlor patent is discusses at column 13 lines 42-59 that "bill payor and payee information for demographic and marketing analysis" can be extracted and that the invention provides "analysis of bill payer payment patterns for the purpose of directing online advertisements or messages targeted to differentiated groups of users."

However, the Lawlor patent is directed to a system where the users have fixed terminals communicating over a wired medium. In contrast, the present patent application is directed toward addressing a distributed communication service system where a mobile unit carried by a user communicates with wireless access points and wherein information can be provided to the mobile unit carried by a user based on past transactions of the user. Thus, for example, when a user carrying a mobile unit is in proximity to a wireless access point, the wireless access point may receive ID information of the user and communicate information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion based on past transactions of the user.

Applicant has amended each of the independent claims to further clarify that the distributed communication service system is directed toward a communication system which involves mobile units carried by users, wherein the mobile units communicate with wireless access points in a wireless fashion. Applicant submits that Lawlor does not teach or suggest a wireless network system which provides the features of the present independent claims. The Lawlor patent could not be readily modified to address a wireless network system, and there is no teaching or suggestion to do so. For example, in Lawlor, the terminal used by the user is fixed and is not a "mobile unit". Further, Lawlor does not teach or suggest the concept of wireless access points distributed in an area that

communicate with mobile units in a wireless fashion. Lawlor further does not teach or suggest detection of a mobile unit by a wireless access point. Lawlor further does not provide any mechanism to address the problems inherently presented by a wireless system, wherein it is not known a priori where a mobile unit will be located at any given time, and which wireless access point a mobile unit will be communicating with at any given time.

Thus, Applicant submits that the present claims as amended are allowable in view of the cited references.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Conley, Rose, & Tayon, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5285-00106/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes

☐ Notice of Change of Address

☐ Check in the amount of $ for fees ( ).

☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,

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Replacement paragraph at page 10, line 33 with amendments highlighted:

In order to reduce message traffic over the network, all or part of MIB may be stored at one or more access points 10. In particular, static information which does not change, or changes relatively infrequently, can be stored in the AP 10. Thus, as shown in FIG. 1, AP 10 includes a memory [27] 22 for storing at least a portion of the MIB. For example, memory [27] 22 could store the location of the AP 10, the local map, local services and other information, such that routine requests for information from the mobile unit, such as "Where am I" requests need not be serviced over the network, leaving more resources for other message traffic.

Amended Claims with Highlighting

1. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a mobile unit carried by a user, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit transmits the identification information in a wireless fashion;

a network;

a plurality of distributed wireless access points coupled to said network, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to detect said mobile unit, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of said plurality of wireless access points in proximity to said mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, one or more past transactions of the user of the mobile unit are identified, and said first wireless access point transmits information to said mobile unit that is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile

unit, wherein the first wireless access point transmits the information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion.

5. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are located in an airport.

6. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are located in a hotel.

7. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of information providers coupled to said network, wherein each of said information providers is operable to provide said information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit based on the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

8. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 1, further comprising:

one or more information providers connected to said network, wherein a first information provider of said one or more information providers is operable to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first information provider is operable to identify the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit and provide said information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit, wherein said information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

11. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 1, wherein said information is further dependent on a current known location of the mobile unit.

12. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are arranged at known locations in a geographic region;

wherein said information is further dependent on a known location of said first wireless access point.

13. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a mobile unit carried by a user, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit transmits the identification information in a wireless fashion;

a network;

at least one information provider coupled to the network;

a plurality of wireless access points coupled to said network and distributed in a region, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to detect said mobile unit, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of said plurality of wireless access points in proximity to said mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit is transmitted to the at least one information provider;

wherein the at least one information provider identifies past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, where the at least one information provider provides information through said network and through said first wireless access point to said mobile unit, wherein the at least one information provider provides said information dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the first wireless access point transmits the information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion.

18. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 13, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are located in an airport.

19. (Amended) The distributed communications service system of claim 13, wherein the plurality of wireless access points are located in a hotel.

23. (Amended) A method of using [a] wireless network access points (APs) to service mobile users who are in a vicinity of the APs, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting the presence of a portable computing device in the vicinity of one of said APs, wherein the portable computing device is carried by a user, wherein said detecting is performed in a wireless manner;

(b) providing identification information indicating the user of the portable computing device in response to said detecting, wherein said providing is performed in a wireless manner;

(c) an information provider accessing past transaction information indicative of the past transactions of the user associated with said identification information;

(d) the [an] information provider transmitting information to the portable computing device through said one of said APs, wherein a content of the information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the portable computing device, wherein said one of said APs provides the information to the portable computing device in a wireless fashion.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the plurality of [access points] APs are located in an airport.

30. (Amended) The method of claim [13] 23, wherein the plurality of [access points] APs are located in a hotel.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

the portable computing device transmitting an inquiry requiring a response to said [access point] one of said APs;

wherein the information provider transmits said information in response to said inquiry.

36. (Amended) A method of providing advertising to users of mobile units, the method comprising:

detecting the presence of a mobile unit in the vicinity of [an] a wireless access point, wherein the mobile unit is carried by a user;

determining past transactions of a user of the mobile unit;

transmitting advertising information to the mobile unit in response to said detecting, wherein the advertising information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein at least a portion of said transmitting is performed by the wireless access point in a wireless fashion.

38. (Amended) A method of providing advertising to users of mobile units, the method comprising:

detecting the presence of a mobile unit in the vicinity of [an] a wireless access point, wherein the mobile unit is carried by a user;

providing past transactions of a user of the mobile unit to a provider in response to said detecting;

the provider transmitting advertising information to the mobile unit, wherein the advertising information is dependent upon the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein at least a portion of said transmitting is performed by the wireless access point in a wireless fashion.

39. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a mobile unit, wherein said mobile unit is configured to transmit identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein the mobile unit is carried by a user;

a network;

one or more service providers coupled to the network; and

a plurality of wireless access points coupled to said network and distributed in a region, wherein each of said plurality of wireless access points is configured to detect said mobile unit in a wireless fashion, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point in proximity to said mobile unit, information is transmitted to a first service provider, said information including identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit;

wherein said first service provider is operable to perform a service in response to said information, wherein said service is performed based on the past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

41. (Amended) The [geographic-based] distributed communications service system of claim 39, wherein the service provider is a hotel, wherein, in response to said information, said hotel is operable to begin processing a room reservation to have a room ready for the user of the mobile unit.

42. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a plurality of wireless access points operable to be coupled to a network and distributed in a region, wherein each of the plurality of wireless access points is configured to detect a mobile unit in a wireless fashion, wherein each of the plurality of wireless access points is also configured to receive identification information indicating a user of the mobile unit, wherein, after detection of said mobile unit by a first wireless access point of the plurality of access points in proximity to the mobile unit, and after receipt of the identification information indicating the user of the mobile unit, the first wireless access point transmits information to the mobile unit in a wireless fashion, wherein the information is dependent upon past transactions of the user of the mobile unit.

43. (Amended) A distributed communications service system, comprising:

a plurality of information providers operable to be coupled to a network, wherein at least one information provider is operable to receive identification information indicating a user of a wireless mobile unit;

wherein the at least one information provider provides information through the network to the wireless mobile unit in response to receiving the identification information indicating the user of the wireless mobile unit, wherein the at least one information provider provides said information dependent upon past transactions of the user of the mobile unit, wherein the wireless mobile unit receives the information in a wireless fashion.

44. (Amended) The [geographic-based] distributed communications service system of claim [1] 43, wherein the information is further dependent upon one or more of requirements, preferences, and habits of the user.

45. (Amended) The [geographic-based] distributed communications service system of claim [1] 43, wherein the past transactions include past commercial activities of the user.